



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# DON PRIDEMORE

## ELECTION AND CAMPAIGN REFORM COMMITTEE AB 169

June 9, 2011

Dear Chairman Tauchen and Members of the Election and Campaign Reform Committee:

Thank you for hearing today's testimony on AB169, which will allow poll workers to be selected from the county of residence rather than their municipality. This will greatly expand the pool of eligible people working on Election Day and will ensure one of our most important constitutional rights is protected, while providing for an efficient and well run process. One of the most difficult and time consuming jobs that some of our election clerks have to administer before each election is finding enough qualified people from both major political parties to run our elections. Some municipal wards have been historically difficult to fill with qualified citizens to work the polls and far too many hours are spent trying. Often times the same people must be called upon year after year and many of these people are well beyond the age of competency.

This is a non-partisan issue as the problem exists in districts that are dominated by either party. Having equal representation by both major parties at the polls ensures neither party the ability to bend the rules to give their party an advantage. This will also lead to establishing more trust across party lines that is sorely lacking in today's political climate. Thank you again for considering AB169 and I would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you,

State Rep. Don Pridemore

To: Rep. Tauchen and Election Committee  
From: Ardis Cerny  
Date: June 9, 2011

**RE: WISCONSIN ELECTION TASK FORCE**

This is what the "Vote Indiana Team" (VIT), created by the Indiana legislature, did to address election reform and be compatible with the HAVA requirements.

These were the specific goals of the 28 person committee:

- a) Accurate list of citizens qualified to vote
- b) Encourage every eligible voter to participate
- c) Use of reliable equipment
- d) Conduct elections in a fair way
- e) Operate with equal effectiveness for every citizen and community
- f) Reflects limited federal participation

This group was divided into 5 sub-committees each with a specific mission to address:

- 1) State-wide voter registration list
- 2) Voter equipment
- 3) Election administration
- 4) Training and education
- 5) Accessibility

The Pridemore Bill addresses points 1 and 2 but what about the other three?

**RE: POLL WORKER RESIDENCY ISSUE**

There are a number of reasons as to why we need to allow municipal clerks to recruit poll workers from their counties and not limit them to their municipalities:

- 1) Many clerks have a habitual problem of recruiting enough poll workers, this is not just in large urban areas but I have also heard about problems in smaller communities.
- 2) Some of the poll workers they hire are not qualified; I mean they do not know the alphabet.
- 3) The state-wide army of poll workers is aging; I have heard that the average age is 72.
- 4) As our elections are becoming more computerized, we need poll workers that will be able to understand the new technology.
- 5) As in other states, training of poll workers will be computerized. When this happens will we have a mass exodus of our older poll workers? As these citizens have been reliable for so many years, municipal clerks don't have the heart to replace them. But if faced with a computer they may opt out by themselves and then we will find ourselves in a real shortage.

Please legislators, be proactive!!! Let's open the door to municipal clerks to recruit from the county and get more citizens involved, educated, and ready to man our polling places when technology becomes a bigger issue.